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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 895,501	06 29 2001	Donald Craig Foster	M-11315 US	7243

7590 05.16.2003

Bever Hoffman & Harms
2099 Gateway Place
Suite 320
San Jose, CA 95110-1017

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

GRAYBILL, DAVID E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2827	

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/895,501	FOSTER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	David E Graybill	2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17-24 and 42-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-45, 49-59 and 61-67 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17, 18, 46-48 and 60 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

Applicant's election of the species of Figure 3, claims 17, 18, 46-48 and 60 in the paper filed 1-30-3 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 19-24, 42-45, 49-59 and 61-67 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

In the rejections infra, reference labels are generally recited only for the first recitation of identical claim language.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless ..

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 17, 46 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tada (5548890).

At column 16, line 55 to column 17, line 43, Tada teaches the following:

A method of making a semiconductor package, the method comprising: providing a leadframe 1 including a plurality of leads 3 within and connected to a frame, wherein at least an inner end portion 3a of each lead is singulated by laser cutting; mounting a chip 102 on the leadframe; electrically coupling 103 the chip to the inner end portion of a plurality of the leads; and encapsulating 104 the chip and the inner end portion of the leads.

A method of making a semiconductor package, the method comprising: providing a leadframe including a plurality of leads, wherein at least a first portion 3a of each lead is singulated by laser cutting; electrically coupling a chip to the leads, wherein the first portion of the lead is an inner end of the lead.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18, 47 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tada as applied to claims 17, 46 and 48, and further in combination with Kubota (JP6204374).

As cited, Tada teaches the following:

A method of making a semiconductor package, the method comprising: providing a leadframe including die pad 2 and a plurality of leads extending toward the die pad, wherein at least a first portion of each lead is singulated by laser cutting, electrically coupling an electrical conductor between a chip coupled to the die pad and the first portion of respective ones of said leads.

However, Tada does not appear to explicitly teach said first portion having a thickness less than a remaining thickness of an immediately adjacent outward portion of the lead.

Nonetheless, in the English translation, abstracts and figures, Kubota teaches a leadframe 1 having a lead first portion 2 having a thickness less than a remaining thickness of an immediately adjacent outward portion. Moreover, it would have been obvious to combine the process of Kubota with the process of Tada because it would provide a highly reliable leadframe.

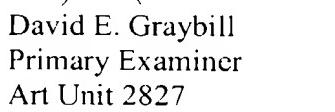
In the response filed 1-30-3, applicant asserts that claims 42-45, 56-59 and 65-67 "should be considered," and further cites

MPEP 2173.05(p). However, the relevance of the citation is unclear. In any case, it is respectfully submitted that claims 42-45, 56-59 and 65-67 have been considered, and are properly restricted for the reasons of record.

Any telephone inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status (MPEP 203.08) of this application or proceeding should be directed to Group 2800 Customer Service whose telephone number is 703-306-3329.

Any telephone inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Graybill at (703) 308-2947. Regular office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The fax phone number for group 2800 is 703/308-7722.



David E. Graybill
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

D.G.
14-May-03